

REMARKS

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 12

Claims 1 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,905,233 issued to Cain et al. (*Cain*) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,795 issued to Redi et al. (*Redi*). Applicant submits claims 1 and 12 are not obvious over *Cain* in view of *Redi* for at least the reasons set forth below.

The Office action states that claims 2-11 and 13-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim(s). Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 12 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 13. Thus, Applicant submits independent claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office action states that claims 2-11 and 13-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled. Therefore, the objection to these claims is moot. Applicant has amended claim 1 and 12 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 13. Thus, Applicant submits claims 3-11 and 14-20 are now in condition for allowance given that they depend from allowable independent claims 1 and 12, respectively.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 21-27 have been added. Independent claim 21 recites an article of manufacture that includes limitations similar to amended claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits claim 21 is allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 22-27 depend from claim 21. Given that dependent claims necessarily include the limitations of the claims from

which they depend, Applicant respectfully submits claims 22-27 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 21.

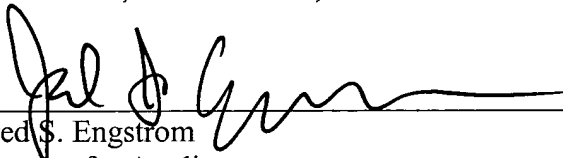
CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-12 and 14-27 are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 7/27/06


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